

**UIC DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY  
RESIDENCY TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**CURRICULUM FOR  
PRIME PSYCHIATRY RESIDENT**

**At the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center**

**Faculty Supervisors:** U. Nalla Durai, M.D., and Christian F. Stepansky, M.D.

**Residency:** One academic year at the PGY IV level (40 hours a week).

**Curriculum**

**Educational Objectives:**

1. To learn to care for patients as part of the primary care team, using both consultative and liaison models.
2. To learn to identify and treat patients with psychiatric disorders within the primary care setting.
3. To serve effectively as an educator of primary care clinicians.
4. To learn and apply clinical interventions with patients with problematic and health-defeating behaviors, i.e., noncompliance with treatment, smoking, weight gain, addictions, personality disorders, and multiple medical problems.
5. To gain experience in short-term individual and group psychotherapy for the medically ill.

### **Training Experiences:**

1. The psychiatry resident will provide evaluation and formal consultation for appropriate patients referred from general medicine residents, faculty, or staff. The psychiatry resident will provide input to the ongoing management of these patients by the primary care provider. More difficult patients will be managed in collaboration with the primary care provider. Complicated psychiatric patients will be managed by the psychiatry resident.
2. The resident will provide informal consultation to medicine residents and other primary care providers on a wide range of cases.
3. The psychiatry PRIME resident will attend teaching conferences within the general medicine clinic and will participate in these conferences as both an educator and a trainee.
4. The resident will co-lead short-term psychotherapy groups for patients with co-morbid depression or other psychiatric illness and medical illness.
5. The resident will have the opportunity to participate in outcome studies of patients treated for psychiatric disorders within the primary care setting.

### **Didactics:**

1. The resident will attend PRIME conferences in the general medicine clinic. These conferences will include the discussion of cases from the ambulatory clinic and pertinent reviews of medical and psychiatric topics.
2. The resident will attend a problem-focused consultation conference and journal club based at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, which will include the psychiatry consultation team and PRIME faculty members.
3. The resident will attend the biweekly psychiatry C/L conference conducted at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.
4. The resident will receive weekly individual supervision from Drs. Durai and Stepansky. Topics that will be covered during these sessions include:
  - a. Epidemiology of Psychiatric Disorders within a Primary Care Setting.
  - b. Somatization as a Symptom, Somatoform Disorders, and Differentiation from Factitious Disorders and Malingering.

- c. Diagnosis and Treatment of Depression and Anxiety in the Primary Care Setting.
- d. Early Detection, Brief Interventions and Outpatient Management of Alcoholism and other Drug Addictions.
- e. Nicotine Addiction and Smoking Cessation.
- f. Management of Dementia.
- g. The use of Psychiatric Symptom and Cognitive Impairment Rating Scales in the Primary Care Setting.
- h. Helping the Primary Care Physician with Issues of Death and Dying.
- i. Patient Compliance.
- j. Effective Patient Teaching.
- k. Psychosocial Interventions for the Medically Ill, including interviewing skills and supportive psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy.

**Clinical Responsibilities:**

1. The resident will be responsible for timely consultations on the appropriate patients referred from one of the primary care teams.
2. The resident will be responsible for the ongoing pharmacotherapeutic and supportive management of a group of patients in Psychiatry Service (50-80 patients). Some of the patients could be from the primary care team.
3. The resident will have a number of patients for individual psychotherapy (brief as well as long-term). Some of the patients would be from the primary care team.
4. The resident will maintain a one day per week clinic at the Crown Point, Indiana community based outpatient clinic and one day per week at the Auburn-Gresham community based outpatient clinic.
5. The resident will conduct regularly scheduled telepsychiatry clinics.

6. The resident will have brief rotations through a variety of areas in Psychiatry Service at VA West Side depending upon his/her interests and previous training. These areas could include Addiction services, Tardive Dyskinesia Clinic, Clozaril Clinic, PTSD Clinic, Geriatric Clinic, Home Base Primary Care, Psychiatry Admitting Clinic, etc.

**Teaching Responsibilities:**

1. The resident will present on pertinent topics to both the primary care team staff and psychiatry residents. Topics such as recognition of depression and anxiety in the primary care setting, pharmacotherapy of depression, diagnoses of psychosis due to medical conditions, detection of addiction and early intervention, medical conditions masquerading as psychiatric illness will be presented.
2. The resident will supervise junior psychiatry residents rotating through the Psychiatry Consultation/Liaison Section.
3. Resident will be expected to make a presentation to the faculty and staff on a topic relevant to primary care and psychiatry. This presentation may be done using the department CME rounds or the VA CME rounds.
4. Resident is encouraged to write a publishable paper on a topic relevant to primary care and psychiatry.

**Research Responsibilities:**

The resident may elect to conduct a research project in the area of primary care.

**Space and Resources:**

The resident will have an office in the psychiatry department and will receive secretarial support from the Psychiatry Service and Residency Training Program. He/she will also have access to a computer.

**Funding Source:**

This residency position has been funded through the Office of Academic Affairs in the VA Central Office with monies sufficient to support a PGY 4 level psychiatry resident.

**Evaluation:**

Effectiveness of this educational mission and training will be determined by:

1. Feedback from medicine residents and staff about the effectiveness of teaching efforts.
2. Feedback from supervisors.
3. Successful placement of resident in a position which emphasizes skills in delivery of integrated service, education, and consultation.